

ROOM 2701
61 BROADWAY
NEW YORK

Monday Feb 2 1931

Dearest —

Makinsky's cable about the fire has just come and I am depressed at not having taken out any insurance as I should have. I cabled him "No Insurance" — and all that we can do is foot the bill. And I am distressed too that you had it to go through with — it must have been terrifying and I am so sorry you had it to go through with alone. After the Berkeley experience I can't help wondering whether it may not have been much worse than his cable said — but I hope oh I do hope not. I know your letters will give me all the details but the feeling that it has happened and that like things could happen is what makes me restless.

I'm going out house hunting again on Friday and probably Saturday afternoon too. Peyton Rous has some relative who may be interested in our house but I haven't seen him yet.

The cold flared up in the nose again Sunday and I worked all day at the office instead of going out to Maggie's, since I thought the cold air wasn't any advantage to a possible autumn infection such as I had last spring. It's a good deal better today.

And now I circle round again to the fire and am so sorry you had it to stand alone. I can withdraw the necessary money any time from the Savings Bank and don't fail to let me know how much it will come to, or has come to. I'd ask a lot of questions except that 10 days from now they'll all be answered by your letters. If it was an affair for the Pompeians how tiresome and troublesome! Or was it ~~just~~ extinguishable by the help of the girls — hardly I imagine.

Had an Exec. Com. Meeting today at which it was argued whether we should appropriate some hundred or two hundred thousand for unemployment relief, to the Red Cross. I pointed out that R.F. officers in Europe had seen more misery in the past six years than there was in America and had loyally stuck to the conviction that study, foresight and prevention is a sounder policy than relief work. If the Exec Com. voted sums for relief it would be hard for us as officers to feel that the policy was consistent and just as hard too for ^{us} them to explain that we have
to Europeans

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nothing for European misery but something for American distress. I had lived abroad long enough to feel that human misery is human misery regardless of country but that I had noted respect and admiration for the R.F.'s policy even from the poverty stricken Europeans, because any thoughtful person knows that ~~in a country~~ prevention is worth more than cure, and foresight more valuable than emotion. The consensus of opinion was in favor of delay ~~as~~ before I spoke but they hadn't faced the thing in principle and were talking ways and means and not the subject on its own merits. Well, it was postponed and I have no idea whether it will come up again or not.

I wish you'd tell Mike this or ~~let him~~ read it to him as I should like to know whether he feels any confusion at the attitude of Trustees in putting \$1,000,000 at the disposition of the Exec Com. for the relief of unemployment through the Red Cross. I'd write him the whole story if it were given me to keep awake and lively 24^o a day! And I'm still a load to look at ~~it~~ in

the incoming basket, and three (or four if you count a dinner party) engagements to splinter tomorrow.

For your own information and between us, Lambert has accepted the suggestion I made that he go to Europe. I have not written OTB or Mike but will do so when I know dates ^{of his} leaving more definitely. In the present status of settling things so slowly here as regards policy etc. I think it more important to have two men in Europe than three in America. But I've got to find ~~the~~ one and later another assistant here, so that I shall have a good deal of a job at staffing. Am reminded of my search all through the wood of secretary-interpreters in Italy that culminated in Raffalovich! But I think I'll have a better selection to draw from and possibly better luck!

Enclosed is a letter from Marjorie. ^{Poor old Ninshine! What a shame!} On the whole I'd be not inclined to even ask for Ninny back — she's too dear to Marjorie and too big a dog for Michael to master or Nancy to get used to or for us to manage except on a farm. But if you want her that wipes out all the above completely.

Oh dearest I do love you and want you and want you near
Goodnight Alan.